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Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS

HEREWITH TEXT OF JOHN F. BURNS BYLINER FROM 11/30 NEW YORK TIMES: "MOZAMBICANS ARE BEING PREPARED FOR WIDER RHODESIA GUERRILLA WAR" DATELINED MAPUTO

WHILE DELEGATES IN GENEVA CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO DEVISE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT FOR RHODESIA, THE PEOPLE OF THIS FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY ARE BEING PREPARED BY THEIR MARXIST GOVERNMENT FOR AN EXPANDED WAR.

IN THE PORTS HERE AND IN BEIRA, FARTHER NORTH, DOCKWORKERS LABOR UNDER A FIERCE SUN TO UNLOAD SOVIET ARMS FOR THE GUERRILLAS OPERATING FROM BASES ALONG THE RHODESIAN BORDER. AT THE MAPUTO AIRPORT, A SOVIET-BUILT HELICOPTER IN CAMOU-FLAGE PAINT IS A REMINDER OF THE ADVANCED EQUIPMENT THE RUSSIANS CAN STILL THROW INTO THE STRUGGLE.

ALONG THE GLASS DOORS THAT LINE THE AIRPORT CONCOURSE, SIGNS CALL FOR TOTAL MOBILIZATION IN SUPPORT OF THE WAR. "SOLIDARITY WITH THE FRATERNAL PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE" THEY SAY, USING THE BLACK NATIONALIST NAME FOR RHODESIA.
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A HAND-LETTERED WALL NEWSPAPER DENOUNCES US PEACE EFFORTS WITH A CARTOON SHOWING SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A KISSINGER AS ONE OF SEVERAL CIGAR-SMOKING CAPITALISTS WEARING TOP HATS. THE CAPTION READS, "KISSINGER AND HIS FRIENDS SINGING THEIR LATEST SONG -- 'MAJORITY RULE FOR THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.'"

AN ACCOMPANYING ESSAY ADDS: "THE WINDS OF REVOLUTION TELL KISSINGER HE MUST SPEAK UP FOR MAJORITY RULE IF ALL IS NOT TO BE LOST. BUT THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA KNOW VERY WELL WHICH SIDE HE AND HIS IMPERIALIST LACKEYS ARE ON."

CRITICISM OF THE US IS MATCHED BY PRAISE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES, PARTICULARLY CUBA. AS SOVIET ARMS ARE BEING UNLOADED, A CUBAN DELEGATION TOURS MOZAMBIQUE, GETTING FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN THE PRESS.

IN SOUTH AFRICA, INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INSIST THAT DIRECT CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONFLICT IS AN APPROACHING REALITY. THE SOURCES POINT TO REPORTS OF CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS AND SOVIET T-54 TANKS BEING AIRLIFTED FROM ANGOLA, WHERE A CUBAN MILITARY FORCE TURNED THE TIDE OF THE CIVIL WAR IN FAVOR OF THE MARXIST FACTION THAT NOW RULES THE COUNTRY.

"WE CERTAINLY CAN'T RULE THE CUBANS OUT OF IT," SAID A WEST EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT WHO HAS DISCUSSED THE RHODESIAN ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL OF MOZAMBIQUE.

THE MOZAMBICAN LEADER IS ASSUMED TO BE THE MOVING FORCE BEHIND A DECLARATION MADE THREE WEEKS AGO BY FIVE AFRICAN PRESIDENTS IN DAR ES SALAAM, THE TANZANIAN CAPITAL. THE STATEMENT SPOKE OF WAR AS THE ONLY MEANS BY WHICH BLACK RULE IN RHODESIA COULD BE INSURED. THE BIRTISH-AMERICAN PEACE EFFORT WAS DISMISSED, AND FRIENDLY NATIONS, PRIMARILY THE COMMUNISTS, WERE ASKED TO STEP UP MILITARY SUPPORT.

FOR PRESIDENT KENNETH D. KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA, WHO HAS PUSHED FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, THE STATEMENT AMOUNTED
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TO A CONCESSION TO THE LESS CONCILIATORY STAND FAVORED BY MR MACHES AND BY PRESIDENT AGOSTIHNO NETO OF ANGOLA. WITHIN DAYS, TANZANIAN SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED TO BE MOVING INTO MOZAMBIQUE. SOVIET SHIPS WERE SAID TO BEGIN UNLOADING ARMORED CARS AND ROCKET LAUNCHERS.

MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN GUERRILLAS LEFT GENEVA AND RETURNED TO MOZAMBIQUE. SOVIET SHIPS WERE SAID TO BEGIN UNLOADING

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ARMORED CARS AND ROCKET LAUNCHERS.

MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN GUERRILLAS LEFT GENEVA AND
RETURNED TO MOZAMBIQUE. AMONG THEM WAS JOSIAN TONGOGARA,
REGARDED BY SOME AS MORE INFLUENTIAL WITH THE GUERRILLAS
AND WITH MR MACHEL THAN ROBERT MUGABE, THEIR REPRESENTATIVE
IN GENEVA.

AT THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE, WHICH OVERLOOKS THE HARBOR,
MR MACHEL HAS MADE NO SECRET OF HIS PREFERENCE FOR A BLACK
GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA SIMILAR TO HIS OWN, COMPLETING
A MARXIST BAND CUTTING ACROSS SOUTHERN AFRICA,
AND ISOLATING SOUTH AFRICA. IT IS COMMONLY ACCEPTED THAT
SUCH AN OUTCOME IS MORE LIKELY IF THE ISSUE IS SETTLED BY
WAR THAN BY NEGOTIATION.

NONETHELESS, MR MACHEL HAS SOME PERSUASIVE REASONS FOR
FAVORING AN EARLY END TO THE CONFLICT. A UNITED NATIONS
REPORT ESTIMATES THAT HIS DECISION LAST MARCH TO CLOSE
THE OBRDER WITH RHODESIA HAS COST MOZAMBIQUE MORE THAN
$110 MILLION IN RAIL-TRANSIT AND PORT BUSINESS AT BEIRA.
IT IS A LOSS THE COUNTRY CAN ILL AFFORD. FURTHERMORE,
A WIDENED WAR COULD INFLICT SERIOUS DAMAGE TO MOZAMBIQUE,
WITH RHODESIAN STRIKES AT RAILWAYS, ROADS AND GUERRILLA
CAMPS.

THEN THERE IS THE SPECTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT.
OFFICIALS IN PRETORIA HAVE BEEN HINTING THAT DIRECT CUBAN
ASSISTANCE TO THE GUERRILLAS WOULD FORCE SOUTH AFRICA INTO
THE WAR ON RHODESIA'S SIDE, A MOVE WITH DISASTROUS ECONOMIC
IMPLICATIONS FOR MOZAMBIQUE.

AS MUCH AS A QUARTER OF SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPORTS MOVE THROUGH
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MAPUTO, GENERATING EMPLOYMENT AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE.
MOZAMBICAN MINERS CONTINUE TO FLOW TO SOUTH AFRICA'S MINES,
AND THE RETAINED PORTIONS OF THEIR EARNINGS, DELIVERD TO
THEIR GOVERNMENT, REPORTEDLY AMOUNT TO MORE THAN $100 A
YEAR.
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